



# DRAINS TO WATERWAYS AND LONG ISLAND SOUND

The **Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** wants you to know that every drop of water that goes down the storm drain eventually finds its way to **Long Island Sound**. This makes it very important to keep pollutants such as motor oil, soaps and detergents, fertilizers, paint, litter, leaves, pet waste and other materials from entering the storm drains.

Contaminated stormwater is called **nonpoint source pollution** and in addition to the pollutants listed above nonpoint pollution can also be caused by atmospheric nitrogen deposition (airborne vehicle emissions).

## How Can You Help to Prevent Nonpoint Source Pollution and Improve Long Island Sound?

### Wash cars on your lawn.



The ground acts as a giant filter to absorb water and soaps. Or better still, use a car wash where the water is collected and treated.

### Clean up after your pets.

Pet waste can contribute to coliform bacteria and excess nitrogen (fertilizer) in **Long Island Sound**. Please pick up after your pets and dispose of their waste properly.



### Leave grass clippings on your lawn.

Decaying grass or other organic materials can consume oxygen and create excess nitrogen that can stress fish and other inhabitants in the Sound.



### Clear leaves, road sand and litter from the storm drain.

These items can clog storm drains and prevent proper draining. Solids and sediments can also pose a threat to aquatic organisms and wildlife.

### Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) properly.



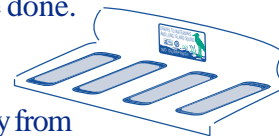
HHW, such as motor oil, paints and solvents may be toxic to plants and animals. Contact your town for information on HHW collection dates in your area or visit DEP's Website at [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/hhw/hhw.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/hhw/hhw.htm).

### Use gravel, crushed stone and plant buffers in your landscaping plans.

Landscaping helps water runoff to be absorbed naturally into the ground while providing habitat for local wildlife. Visit DEP's Website at [www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/pdf/ntvtree.pdf](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/pdf/ntvtree.pdf) or <http://arboretum.conncoll.edu/treeavailability.pdf>, for lists of native plants.



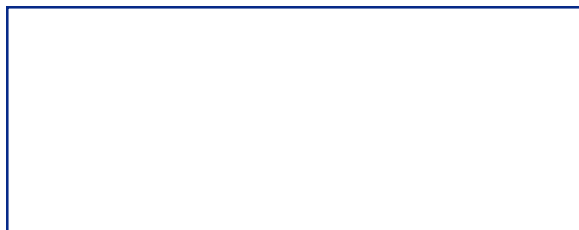
Over the past 13 years the **Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection** has spent more than one billion dollars to improve **Long Island Sound**. Through this work, the quality of Connecticut's harbors and other coastal waters are considerably improved. However, there is more work to be done.



Minimizing nonpoint source pollution, especially from storm drains, is the next big step in improving water quality in **Long Island Sound**.

Water runoff transported through storm drains and combined sewer systems carries excessive nitrogen into **Long Island Sound** where it causes algae blooms. When algae blooms die, their decomposition consumes oxygen from the waters in the Sound. The low levels of dissolved oxygen that result impairs the feeding, growth and reproduction of the Sound's aquatic life.

Low dissolved oxygen, also called hypoxia, has emerged as the most important water quality problem in the Sound. To help combat hypoxia, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has committed to reducing the amount of nitrogen entering the Sound from nonpoint sources by 64 percent by the year 2014. Connecticut anticipates spending more than \$560 million over the next 15 years to eliminate combined sewers that deliver large amounts of untreated water directly into rivers.



The organization listed above has installed storm drain markers in your neighborhood using a grant from the **Long Island Sound Fund**. The **LIS Fund** is supported through the sale of *Preserve the Sound* license plates, the Peoples' Bank LIS Visa Card and individual contributions. The Fund is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, with a citizen's Advisory Committee.

License plates are available for sale by calling **1-800-CT-SOUND** or visit our web site: [www.dep.state.ct.us/olisp/licplate/licplate.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/olisp/licplate/licplate.htm). Plates are available for your car, truck, or boat trailer.

Over the last ten years, *Preserve the Sound* license plates have raised over \$4.0 million for projects with over \$3.6 million allocated to fund more than 227 projects around Connecticut in the areas of:

- **Public Access**
- **Education and Outreach**
- **Habitat Restoration**
- **Research**



This project is funded by the  
Long Island Sound License Plate Program,  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
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as amended, administered by the  
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management,  
National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



Call **1-800-CT-SOUND**  
to order your  
*Preserve the Sound* plate today!



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner  
[www.dep.state.ct.us](http://www.dep.state.ct.us)

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# Something New is Happening in Your Neighborhood!



Step outside and you will notice  
that markers have been installed  
on storm drains to help  
protect the environment.



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